



Norwegian Presidency
2014–2015

PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME (MTCR), Oslo, 3rd October 2014

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) held its 28th Plenary Meeting in Oslo from 29 September to 3 October 2014. State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hans Brattskar, gave a welcoming speech at the opening of the meeting. Ambassador Roald Næss, who will remain the Chair of the MTCR until the next Plenary Meeting scheduled for 2015, chaired the meeting.

The main purpose of the Plenary Meeting was to review and evaluate the MTCR's activities over the last 12 months and to intensify the efforts of MTCR partners to prevent the proliferation of unmanned delivery systems capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

MTCR partners recalled that proliferation of WMD (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons) and their means of delivery remain a threat to international peace and security, as recognised in UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540. They reiterated their commitment to limit the risks of proliferation by controlling transfers that could contribute to delivery systems for WMD. They held a thorough exchange of information on missile proliferation developments since their last plenary meeting in Rome.

Partners welcomed that the MTCR Guidelines and control lists constitute an international benchmark for best practices for controlling exports of missile-related items and technologies, and noted that these standards are increasingly adhered to by non-members as well as included in some UNSCRs.

Partners called on all countries to exercise extreme vigilance to prevent the transfer of goods and technology, which could contribute to WMD missile programmes, in accordance with their national legislation and consistent with international law. They confirmed their commitment to inform and assist interested parties that are supportive of the MTCR's objectives and purposes.

In the interest of regional and international security, MTCR partners appeal to all states to support the non-proliferation aims of the Regime by observing its Guidelines, and by establishing appropriate national legislation and law enforcement mechanisms.

Partners underlined that the MTCR Guidelines should be no impediment to technological advancement, development and space programmes as long as these programmes could not contribute to delivery systems for WMD.

Partners emphasised that observance of the MTCR Guidelines by as many states as possible will contribute substantially to limiting the risks of proliferation of delivery systems for WMD and to fostering international security. Partners welcomed that a number of countries who are not members of the Regime, have taken on commitments to observe the Guidelines as a basis in their national export control concerning missile technology.

Partners also encouraged relevant regional bodies and institutions to give attention to the role of export controls in preventing the proliferation of missiles capable of carrying WMD, including the role of export controls.

Partners expressed appreciation for the outreach activities conducted by the outgoing MTCR Chairman Ambassador Carlo Trezza. The new MTCR Chair was encouraged to follow up and conduct further outreach activities and contacts in order to increase transparency about the Regime, to promote its objectives and to maintain the momentum of dialogue with the visited countries. MTCR partners also encourage the continuation of individual, collective and regional efforts to assist non-member countries and other interested parties in implementing missile-related export controls as required under UNSCR 1540, and to inform the Chair about these activities.

Within the framework of the MTCR mandate, they conducted extensive discussions on various country issues including DPRK and Iran and expressed concerns associated with global missile proliferation activities in particular regarding ongoing missile programmes in the Middle East, Northeast Asia, and South Asia, which might fuel missile proliferation activities elsewhere.

They confirmed their commitment to implement relevant UNSCR on non-proliferation including 1695, 1718, 1874, 2087, 2094 and 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835, 1929. Other critical situations, with regard to WMD delivery means and their operational use were also considered. Partners agreed to continue exchanging views on missile programme developments.

Partners reaffirmed the critical importance of the MTCR's on-going technical work. They underlined that the rapid technological development related to sensitive items and technologies continues to require great awareness and effective actions to address these developments. They recognised that the Equipment, Software, and Technology Annex is a cornerstone of the work done by the MTCR to prevent illegal transfers of missile technologies and expressed deep appreciation for the accomplishments of the MTCR's Technical Expert Meeting (TEM).

They also expressed their deep appreciation for the work of the MTCR's Licensing and Enforcement Expert Meeting (LEEM), and the Information Exchange Meeting (IEM). Partners continued discussions on a number of issues, including proliferation trends, procurement activities and strategies in support of programmes for WMD delivery means; risks and challenges posed by intangible technology transfers; key technology trends in missile programmes; catch-all controls for non-listed items; brokering, transit and transhipment issues and on efforts to exploit them to evade export controls. These discussions showed that constant awareness; information sharing, including on best practices; and updating of MTCR countries export control systems and enforcement efforts is of great importance and has great impact on their work towards curbing proliferation of WMD means of delivery.

Partners thanked France for successfully organising a technical outreach meeting in Paris and underlined the importance of maintaining and expanding this type of meeting.

Partners shared the view that Intangible Technology Transfers (ITT) poses a serious risk to proliferation of WMD missile relevant technology. They agreed to keep this topic on future Plenary agendas.

Partners encouraged voluntary decisions by non-Partners to apply to any extent the MTCR Annex and Guidelines, and would welcome them informing the MTCR Point of Contact of such steps. The Partners invited countries to declare full adherence to the MTCR Guidelines and formally notify the MTCR Point of Contact in writing, on a voluntary basis, of their political commitment to control all of the items on the MTCR Annex according to the MTCR Guidelines, including any subsequent changes to the Annex/Guidelines.

Partners also exchanged views on issues relating to future membership, including their overall approaches to membership evaluation. Individual applications for membership were also thoroughly discussed. The membership issue will continue to be on the agenda.

Partners reviewed a number of issues relating to the internal operation of the MTCR, including the continuity and effectiveness of its Chairmanship. They warmly welcomed and approved the offer of a joint MTCR Chairmanship by Luxembourg and the Netherlands in 2015-2016.

The MTCR has 34 members: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.